



COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

An Update from Community Lodgings: January & February 2011

RUNNER BROOKE CURRAN DONATES \$10,000 TO SUPPORT HOMELESS AND LOW-INCOME KIDS

Through the Running Brooke Fund, Alexandria resident Brooke Curran chose Community Lodgings as one of the main beneficiaries of her charitable giving. She paired her passion for running with raising awareness for important causes. In 2010, Brooke ran one marathon each month. In 2011, she plans to run marathons in New Orleans, Arkansas, California, West Virginia, Wyoming, South Dakota, Utah, New Hampshire, Indiana, Hawaii, and even Great Britain. At right, Brooke presents a check to ED Bonnie Baxley.



Running Brooke Fund supports Community Lodgings

SINGLE MOTHER MOVES ON TO SELF-SUFFICIENCY

After only a few months in our Transitional Housing Program, a single mother was able to reach self-sufficiency and move on to her own apartment. During her time in the program, she was able to achieve stability. Not only did she receive housing, but she also participated in 7 workshops on Parenting and Job Skills, and attended 2 Women's Support Groups. In only three months, we helped her move from a part-time retail job to full-time employment with the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority. Congratulations to D.J. and her son for moving on to a better, independent life!

"I've learned a lot in the Transitional Housing Program, especially in terms of how to budget. I've also learned to be patient and more responsible in all aspects of life. My case manager Ms. Braxton was particularly helpful in empowering me to attain self-sufficiency."

D.J. recently reached self-sufficiency through our Transitional Housing Program and moved on to a home of her own

VERIZON DONATES VIP BASKETBALL, ICE SKATING TICKETS TO OUR FAMILY LEARNING CENTER KIDS

Aside from providing crucial financial support to our Family Learning Center afterschool programs for at-risk youth, Verizon also ensures that these kids have plenty of other opportunities as well. In January and February, Verizon donated three sets of 18 tickets to Community Lodgings, so that our children could attend two basketball games and a performance of Disney on Ice at the Verizon Center in Washington, DC. Not only were the children thrilled to attend, they were also incredibly appreciative of the treat!



Our children attended Disney on Ice at the Verizon Center

ROBERTO'S COMMITMENT TO SUCCESS CONTINUES TO IMPRESS FAMILY LEARNING CENTER STAFF



Our staff has been working very hard this quarter with Roberto, an elementary school student. Thanks to his positive attitude and general enthusiasm, he has improved his reading skills. Ms. Yasmin describes him as very committed, charming and well-behaved!

ACTION ALEXANDRIA HELPS COMMUNITY LODGINGS FIND MANY CRUCIAL COMMUNITY RESOURCES

ACTion Alexandria, a new local grassroots philanthropy website, connects citizens of Alexandria with local nonprofit organizations like to improve our community. Community Lodgings has been selected as one of ACTion Alexandria's first Featured Actions, and we hope you'll help us make it a successful one. They will help us to collect 1 month's supply of diapers - about 640 diapers total. Why diapers? Disposable diapers are expensive. An adequate supply of disposable diapers can cost between \$100 and \$120 a month, and safety net programs do not cover their cost. For a family struggling with homelessness, the cost of diapers can seem insurmountable. We are in desperate need of disposable diapers for children living in Transitional Housing and enrolled in our Family Learning Center programs. To learn more information about ACTion Alexandria, please visit their website: www.actionalexandria.org/action

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING WITH US?

Are you interested in tutoring or mentoring a child? Becoming a Budget Mentor for homeless adults? Organizing an event? Renovating an apartment? Presenting workshops for at-risk children? We will tap your expertise to make sure that you have a wonderful experience as a volunteer! Please contact Jim Dempsey at 703.549.4407 or email jdempsey@communitylodgings.org.

Join Community Lodgings to Celebrate Spring Forward to Union Street

Our 6th Annual Spring Forward Event
Hosted by

Union Street Public House

Who Has Generously Donated the Venue, Food and Wait Staff

121 South Union Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Sunday, March 27, 2011
5:30pm to 9:30pm

\$75 in advance—\$80 at door
Cocktails – Silent & Live Auction
Dinner – Entertainment

For more information, please contact Jim Dempsey at jdempsey@communitylodgings.org.



Photo by Leigh Dwyer

COMMUNITY LODGINGS LAUNCHES NEW LITERACY PROGRAM FOR HOMELESS CHILDREN IN MARCH

In March 2011, Community Lodgings will introduce a literacy program for children enrolled in our Transitional Housing Program for homeless families. By incorporating literacy development into the childcare provided while adults attend mandatory program workshops on job skills and parenting, we are able to help children gain valuable and necessary skills at an early age. Staff attended training on "Literacy Development in Infants and Toddlers" with The Reading Connection. The Reading Connection's "Read Aloud" program is the model for this project.